

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. By this Amendment, the drawings are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to Figure 2 of the drawing as not being designated by a legend, because that which is old is illustrated. Applicants amend Figure 2 in the attached Replacement Sheet to obviate this objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-263039; rejects claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-263039 in view of Hatano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,602,816); rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-263039 in view of JP 10-309567; and rejects claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-263039 in view of JP 10-309567 and further in view of Hatano et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that neither JP 2000-263039, Hatano, nor JP 10-309567 disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, a method of adding activated carbon in water purification treatment by adding activated carbon to water to be treated to purify water to be treated, characterized in that an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles having an average particle size of 0.1 μ m to 10 μ m obtainable by wet milling of the particles of the activated carbon is added to the water to be treated, as recited in independent claims 1 and 4.

JP 2000-263039 discloses a water purification method where active carbon having a large particle diameter is first crushed by ultrasonic wave in water to obtain an average

particle diameter of 10 μm to 20 μm . Then the crushed active carbon is used for preparation of active carbon-containing suspension, which is temporarily stored in a reservoir. The temporarily stored suspension is then transported via Tank Rory to a water purification site where it is diluted to a proper concentration and added to a reaction vessel of the water purification plant. Finally, the added suspension is used to purify raw water. Accordingly, JP 2000-263039 does not disclose crushing active carbon *in situ* in the water treatment plant, and thus fails to disclose at least a method of adding activated carbon in water purification treatment by adding activated carbon to water to be treated to purify water to be treated, characterized in that an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles having an average particle size of 0.1 μm to 10 μm obtainable by wet milling of the particles of the activated carbon is added to the water.

Hatano discloses a method of wet milling clay into a form of aqueous slurry and mixing the clay slurry with acid-soluble or acid-decomposing inorganic compound slurry. Accordingly, Hatano also fails to disclose at least a method of adding activated carbon in water purification treatment by adding activated carbon to water to be treated to purify water to be treated, characterized in that an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles having an average particle size of 0.1 μm to 10 μm obtainable by wet milling of the particles of the activated carbon is added to the water.

JP 10-309567 discloses a water treatment plant including a means for adding active carbon having a particle diameter of 0.01 μm to 10 μm to water for performing a membrane separation treatment. Accordingly, JP 10-309567 does not disclose crushing active carbon *in situ* in the water treatment plant, and thus also fails to disclose at least the aforementioned features of claims 1 and 4. Therefore, JP 10-309567 does not make up for the deficiencies of JP 2000-263039 or Hatano.

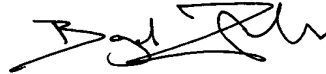
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that neither JP 2000-263039, Hatano, nor JP 10-309567 disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, a method of adding activated carbon in water purification treatment by adding activated carbon to water to be treated to purify water to be treated, characterized in that an aqueous suspension containing activated carbon fine particles having an average particle size of 0.1 μm to 10 μm obtainable by wet milling of the particles of the activated carbon is added to the water to be treated.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 4 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-3 and 5-8 depend from independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections of claims 1-8.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Replacement Sheet (Fig. 2)

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Fig. 2 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 1 and 2.